

IHB

The Industrial Home for the Blind

services
for the blind

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57 Willoughby St.

Brooklyn, New York 11201

1974



Annual Report



We Help Them . . .

Cope . . .



When feelings of anxiety or isolation bear down upon the blind person, an IHB Social Worker is available to clarify his needs and provide the necessary emotional support. He or she guides and directs without placing unreasonable demands on the blind person. We believe the client has the right to share totally in the helping process.

The caseworker serves as liaison between the client and the other members of the IHB professional team: the rehabilitation counselor; the audiologist; the consulting psychologist, ophthalmologist, and neurologist; and therapists.

Working closely with the blind person, the caseworker communicates vital information about him and his family, especially their attitudes towards blindness, to the other IHB team members.

The social worker determines which IHB services may be most helpful and may make referrals to other social, health, and community agencies where indicated.

Blindness is a severe disability requiring many kinds of service to overcome the handicap it presents at different times in life. The needs of every blind person are different just as he is uniquely different from every other person. This report attempts to highlight some of the many important ways in which IHB has helped individual blind persons to lead successful and satisfying lives.

During the past fiscal year, 9170 blind adults and children were registered as IHB clients. Of the 8469 registered when the year ended, 3456 were Kings County residents; 1707 lived in Queens; 1855 in Nassau; and 1423 in Suffolk.



To Find Independence . . .

Through programs of rehabilitation, the blind person will achieve a sense of independence and fulfillment. IHB research and demonstration projects have developed many new programs and techniques for more effective care of blind people.

The goal of the IHB rehabilitation specialists-counselors, therapists, social workers, and instructors — is to aid the individual in achieving his maximum potentialities—physical, intellectual, social, vocational, and economic. The end goal of the total rehabilitative process, in most cases, is gainful employment. Program planning and instruction are done on an individual basis, without exception. Throughout the trainee's evaluation period, progress notes are made on his general behavior, attitude, interest, etc. Moreover, daily staff conferences are devoted to exchanging observations, impressions and actual data concerning the clients. In 1974, training and/or employment services were provided to 883 blind men and women, the IHB Rehabilitation Center accommodating 179, many of whom had major secondary disabilities. Mobility Training was given to 412 blind adults and children.

Low Vision Service

The IHB ophthalmologist re-examines the client to determine whether vision can be improved by medical or surgical treatment and, if he feels that the trainee might benefit from the use of optical aids, he refers him to the Low Vision Rehabilitation Service. A total of 954 patients were seen in the Low Vision Clinic in 1974.

The IHB psychologist administers a bat-

tery of psychological tests designed to evaluate the client's intelligence, potentialities, and attitudes.

The staff audiologist evaluates the client's speech and hearing and provides corrective help. The results of all the above physical or mental health examinations are referred to a vocational rehabilitation counselor and social worker at the IHB Rehabilitation Center and a program of rehabilitation activities, compatible with health capabilities, is planned with the trainee.

Home Management Program

IHB clients also acquire independence in learning to maintain themselves and their households. The extensive IHB Home Management Program continues to train blind men and women in their own homes as well as at the pilot Home Management Center in Brooklyn and its equivalents being introduced in Queens, Bayshore, and Cold Spring Harbor. The Home Management Centers generally include a three-room model apartment consisting of a fully furnished and equipped kitchen, bedroom, and living room.

The rehabilitation teacher forms a plan hand-tailored to the individual and continually evaluates the client's progress at the Center. At the beginning and conclusion of training, the teacher visits the client at home to watch him perform with various skills—communication skills, such as braille, typing, and script writing; personal management skills, such as grooming, selection and care of clothing, handling money and the use of the telephone; and domestic skills, such as cooking techniques and housekeeping.

In 1974, 292 blind persons received rehabilitation teaching services. 3647 lessons including braille and homemaking were given during the year.

We Help Them . . .

When They're Young . . .



In 1949, with a high incidence of infant blindness due to retrolental fibroplasia (RLF), The IHB responded to parental demand by inaugurating a Children's Program, offering educational training and placement for the children and/or counseling to their parents. The cause of RLF was determined to be the administration of excessive oxygen to premature babies in incubators.

Although it was anticipated that infant blindness would decline once the cause was discovered, this has not proved to be so. Periodic outbreaks of Rubella epidemics as well as glaucoma, eye cancer, cataracts, genetic defects, accidents and eye infections, have increased the number of blind children. Moreover, many of these children are born with cardiac and neuromotor disabilities as well as visual and hearing defects.

Blind children on the register as of June 30 totaled 957. By county, the register of blind children was Kings, 341; Queens, 86; Nassau, 267; and Suffolk, 263.

Professional Counseling

Through counseling with the IHB professional staff, the proper relationship between

the blind child and his or her parents is established and enhanced and communication channels are opened. The parents are counseled about their feelings toward the child and its special needs. The blind child is counseled in body movements, feeding, toilet training and speech. A psychologist tests the child for intellectual capacity and emotional reactions. The common goal is to produce a normal, well adjusted individual in the years ahead.

Whenever possible, IHB arranges for the child to attend regular school with sighted children and continues to work with the special education teachers in the various community school systems. Also, The IHB Braille Textbook Library, through the efforts of staff and hundreds of volunteers, continues to supply blind students a braille or large print edition of every textbook used in the year's course of studies.

In summer, The IHB sponsors a professionally-staffed Day Camp for blind and multi-handicapped blind children in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, last year held on the grounds of the State University of New York at Farmingdale. The youngsters participate in the traditional camp activities as well as programs geared to their special needs. A separate program for pre-schoolers and deaf-blind children was housed in an on-campus nursery school and staffed by teachers trained in Early Childhood Education.

For inner-city children, The IHB operated a Summer Program at the Headquarters Building in Downtown Brooklyn and tapped community resources such as The Salvation Army Bedford Boys Club Day Camp, Catholic Charities "Operation FUN" and the YMCA and YMHA. Close to 200 blind and deaf-blind children benefited from our day camps or from residential camp placement.



When They're Old . . .

The elderly blind person not only has the burdens of blindness to cope with but the problems brought about by the onset of advanced age as well. For senior citizens, isolation and dependency are perhaps the feelings most difficult to overcome.

Day Centers and Recreation

To lessen this feeling, the IHB Recreation Program sponsors five Day Centers in Brooklyn, Queens, Baldwin, Cold Spring Harbor, and Bayshore, where elderly blind persons may gather together to socialize, secure information, participate in Adult Education programs or develop new hobbies. Day Center enrollment in 1974 came to 672 during the year. Totals for each center were Kings, 191; Queens, 140; Nassau, 89; South Suffolk, 116; and North Suffolk, 136.

Two "integrated" Day Centers are currently operating at Eisenhower Park and Lido Beach. These are conducted in cooperation with the Nassau County Recreation Department and provide the opportunity for elderly blind persons to share their interests and feelings with sighted senior citizens.

The Burrwood Residence

The Burrwood Residence in Cold Spring Harbor stands as a tribute to the dignity of the aged. Here, aged blind and deaf-blind persons function as independent human beings, totally involved in the program(s) of that facility. At Burrwood, people *share* and people *care*. Suggestions and criticism are brought to the administration through the residents' own Burrwood Council. Special interest groups such as the Garden Club and the Burrwood Men's and Women's Groups channel excess energy into creative activities.



SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1974

Support from the public - contributions, including legacies received of \$712,331		\$2,175,669
Fees and grants from governmental agencies:		
Grants	\$5,809,344	
Training fees and allowances	506,184	6,315,528
Other revenue:		
Maintenance fees - residences	437,818	
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	3,589	
Rental income	60,301	
Income from investments	70,550	
Income from endowment funds	34,962	
Net gain on investment transactions	67,097	
Miscellaneous revenue	23,864	698,181
Total support and revenue		9,189,378
Deduct support and grants expendable only as specified by donors:		
For specific program services	838,390	
For construction of permanent headquarters of National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults	5,048,027	5,886,417
Support and revenue available to finance current general activities		3,302,961
Expenditures:		
Program services:		
I. H. B. Industries:		
Sheltered workshops:		
Manufacturing and selling costs, and client supplements and subsidies	2,821,045	
Less net sales	2,769,026	52,019
Deduct depreciation provision	9,341	
Loss from manufacturing operations	42,678	
Work Activities Center -- loss from manufacturing and training operations	53,829	
Social services for adults	254,072	
Medical services	86,206	
Rehabilitation services	776,173	
Residences	527,637	
Day centers and recreation services	206,604	
Services for blind children	351,444	
National Center and I.H.B. services for deaf-blind	542,293	
Research	7,588	
Carried Forward	\$2,848,524	3,302,961
Community services:		
Public education, prevention of blindness and case finding	\$140,798	
Community relations and volunteer services	144,780	285,578
Total program services		3,134,102
Supporting service:		
I.H.B. building	201,784	
Management and general	660,264	
Fund raising	293,705	1,155,753
Construction expenditures and equipment acquisitions	1,225,586	
Total expenditures	5,515,441	
Deduct expenditures financed by restricted funds:		
Current restricted funds	(921,523)	
Property, plant and equipment funds	(1,178,196)	
Expenditures financed by current general revenue		3,415,722
Excess of current general fund expenditures over related revenue - decrease in current general fund balance		\$112,761

The books of The Industrial Home for the Blind are audited by certified public accountants. A copy of their report will be made available upon request.

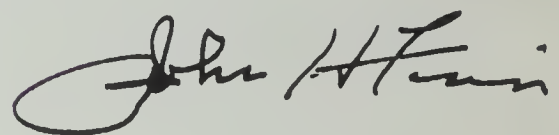
President's Message

In 1974, the 80th year of service of The Industrial Home for the Blind, we have met the challenge of the demand to serve an expanded community with advanced equipment and methodology to continue to afford the best available service and treatment to our clients.

Notwithstanding the growth of the population and demands upon our staff, we still consider and care for the particular needs of each individual which a competent, dedicated staff, supported by our trustees and many volunteers, has enabled us to serve 9000 blind or deaf-blind persons of all ages.

The deaf-blind have been aided by the temporary facility at New Hyde Park while construction of the permanent National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults at Sands Point goes forward. This Federally funded project, which should be available in 1975, will enable IHB, as agent for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to train as many as 100 deaf-blind persons recruited from all parts of the United States.

We are grateful for the continued public support for all the many facilities we operate in Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties which enable IHB to achieve the goal of 'Helping the Blind and Deaf-Blind to Help Themselves'."



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